

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-37 are present for examination.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-7, 9, 12-21, 24, 25, and 28-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Enright et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,583,813) (hereinafter Enright).

Claims 8 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enright in view of Katz (U.S. Patent Number 5,920,338) (hereinafter Katz).

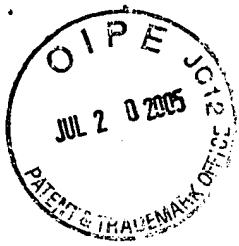
Claims 10, 11, 22, 23, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enright in view of Odle (U.S. Patent Number 5,491,511).

With respect to claims 1-37, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully notes that the earliest filing date relied upon by Enright is October 9, 1998, the filing date of a provisional application from which Enright claims priority. Applicant hereby declares that there was conception of the invention of the present application in the United States prior to October 9, 1998, coupled with due diligence from prior to October 9, 1998, to the filing date of the application (constructive reduction to practice). In support thereof, applicant includes with this reply a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131. Accordingly, Enright cannot be prior art to the present application. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-37 is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

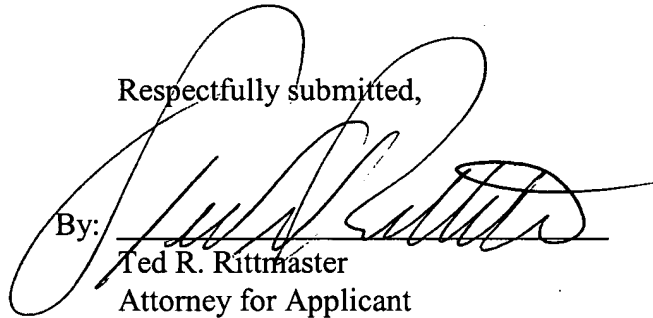


The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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